

● NOVEMBER 2021

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



SRNS Today

**NNSA
Administrator
and Deputy
visit SRS**



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This month

Immobilizing iodine-129 in groundwater • Soldiers salute managers • Winning IDEAS



Welcome

to the November 2021 edition of

SRNS Today

Stuart MacVean
SRNS President and CEO

The Savannah River Site is essential to the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) missions. From growth in the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise to the more recent Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility mission, SRS has become a flagship site for the NNSA, sentiments that were echoed by NNSA Administrator Jill Hruby when she and NNSA Principal Deputy Administrator Frank Rose visited in November. She made it clear that our work is a high priority for the nation. It's an exciting time to be a part of the NNSA Enterprise.

This month, NNSA also recognized SRNS employees who were part of the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise Glovebox Stripper Team with the Excellence Every Day Award. The team's work to examine equipment failure in the Tritium Extraction Facility and determine a path forward allowed SRTE to continue carrying out its mission in support of the nation's nuclear deterrent.

And while things looked a bit different this year, SRNS conducted another successful CSRA College Night virtually reaching more than 600 students. We also continued to make progress on important environmental cleanup missions; and three SRNS leaders were bestowed a Patriot Award from the Department of Defense Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program for their commitment and support of National Guard and Reserve soldiers.

I hope you enjoy this month's edition of SRNS Today.



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell. Since August 2008, SRNS has been the management and operating contractor for the Savannah River Site, a Department of Energy-owned site near Aiken, South Carolina. The SRNS corporate and community offices are located in the renovated 1912 "Old Post Office" building in Aiken. The primary initiatives of SRNS are national security, clean energy and environmental stewardship. SRNS Today is published monthly by SRNS Corporate Communications to inform our employees and other stakeholders of the company's operational- and community-related activities. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at 803.952.6131 or visit our website.

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COMMON ACRONYMS

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) • Savannah River Site (SRS)
Department of Energy (DOE) • National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)



Photos in this issue include prior COVID-19 guidelines, regarding no mask requirements for vaccinated employees.



Site employees test materials to immobilize iodine-129 in groundwater

Two Savannah River Ecology Laboratory soil scientists, Jeffrey Lott and Christina Logan, monitor experimental test equipment used to remove Iodine-129 from groundwater at SRS.

For 33 years, during the U.S.-Soviet Cold War, wastewater was released to pond-like basins near two nuclear fuel processing facilities at SRS. Over the decades, wastewater that contained trace amounts of radioactive iodine-129 slowly migrated down through the soil and into the water table.

"The wastewater was responsibly treated using the best available technology at the time. That said, we've come a long way since this all began in the 1950s," said Jeff Thibault, SRNS engineer. "The cleanup technology currently used binds the iodine radionuclides to earthen sediment within the aquifer, effectively locking them into place. Unfortunately, that same technology can't be used to treat the leading edge of the plume, which has reached a large marshy area at SRS. This presents a new cleanup challenge for us as the contamination surfaces in the marshlands."

According to Thibault, off-the-shelf, ready to be purchased groundwater treatment for this type of cleanup environment does not exist. "We've become adept at developing highly effective remediation techniques for a variety of contaminants at SRS, both chemical and radioactive techniques that many sites across the DOE complex have adopted. We have some of the most creative and innovative engineers and scientists in the world tackling these issues. And we're asking them to apply their expertise and knowledge to this new task, working with the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) to make it a reality."

Thibault stated that the ultimate goal is to identify a material that can be placed underground at the edge of the marsh, creating a permeable barrier. Upon contact, this material would immobilize the



"The wastewater was responsibly treated using the best available technology at the time. That said, we've come a long way since this all began in the 1950s."

Jeff Thibault



iodine-129 underground before rising to the surface in the marsh. "We want to create a solid treatment barrier that will allow the groundwater to pass through, but not the iodine-129," he said.

The first phase of this project involves extensive laboratory testing of 11 promising materials by John Seaman, Ph.D., SREL Research Professor.

SREL scientists in the field and SRNS engineers are currently testing four of the 11 materials using contaminated water from the aquifer. The materials are zero-valent iron, porous iron composite, granular activated carbon and a mixture of iron and carbon.

"We hope to get positive results out of this first phase of testing. We also have funding in our budget for next year to test other sorbents or other combinations of sorbents," said Thibault. "I'm very interested in the mixing of materials. Zero-valent iron may be good. But zero-valent iron with carbon may be fantastic."

SRS is the recognized leader throughout DOE, related to iodine-129 environmental remediation.



D-Ash Basin remediation

Innovations protect and restore SRS environment

SRNS made the safe cleanup and restoration of SRS as a primary goal since 2008. The Site has been environmentally impacted by nuclear waste generated during the Cold War.

Though decades of nuclear weapons production at SRS helped the United States win the Cold War, this era of Cold War operations resulted in the accumulation of radioactive and chemical waste.

“The variety and number of cleanup challenges found across the 310 square-mile Savannah River Site has made our end goal that much more complex,” said Chris Bergren, SRNS Director, Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects. “We’ve taken down more than 50 buildings; grouted several contaminated structures with a cement-like material, including two nuclear reactors; cleaned up earthen pits formerly holding contaminated items; remediated and closed pond-like basins containing hazardous materials; and found highly effective ways to remediate contaminated groundwater. The list goes on, and so does our company’s success with each task.”

Bergren credits much of this success to the conscientious innovation and remarkable dedication exhibited by those in his organization and the numerous contributions made by Savannah River National Laboratory engineers and scientists.

In one creative example, SRNS workers found that silver chloride could immobilize radioactive iodine-129 found in soil and groundwater near the center of SRS. The method also proved to be cost-effective.

“Since 2019, this conventional industrial product has been injected into soil and groundwater using wells to capture and lock into place a high percentage of the iodine nuclides, significantly reducing the amount of contamination in the groundwater,” SRNS Area Completion Projects Engineer Jeff Thibault said.

As a result, post-treatment testing found levels much lower than regulatory limits.

In another example, SRNS used recycled iron filings to construct a large underground, water-permeable wall. The filings naturally neutralized Cold War-era chemical solvents in the aquifer beneath SRS.

“This highly efficient environmental cleanup technology is another asset within the arsenal of environmental restoration tools assembled for use across SRS,” said Thibault. “It’s an ‘environmental war’ on hazardous waste, and we’re winning it.”

does not contain any WIPP-prohibited items, without operators having to physically open the TRU waste container.

“The TRU waste we have shipped off-site in the past few years had already been characterized using equipment that was removed from the SWMF several years ago,” said Kerri Crawford, Solid Waste Programs Manager for SRNS. “Operation of this equipment, in conjunction with other TRU waste characterization equipment installed at the Solid Waste Management Facility last year, will allow new TRU waste generated from SRS operations to be certified and ultimately shipped to WIPP.”

The term transuranic refers to elements with an atomic number greater than that of uranium (92). TRU wastes typically consist of protective clothing, tools, rags, equipment and miscellaneous items contaminated with small amounts of plutonium. This equipment is owned by the DOE Central Characterization Program for use throughout the DOE Complex. It was previously used by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, then sent for refurbishment before being provided to SRS for use in the SWMF.

New equipment to allow resumption of waste characterization in SWMF

The recent installation of equipment at the SRS Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF) allows newly generated transuranic (TRU) waste to be characterized and certified by the National TRU Program, paving the way for off-site shipment and disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

The equipment, a real time radiography (RTR) unit, utilizes an X-ray system to allow containers (e.g., 55-gallon drums or standard waste boxes) holding radioactive waste to go through a non-destructive examination (NDE).

WIPP has specific standards for the waste containers allowed to be disposed in their underground repository. The NDE portion of characterization verifies and validates that the waste within each container matches the documentation provided by SRS and that it

SRTE team awarded for excellence

NNSA Savannah River Field Office (SRFO) recognized the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) Glovebox Stripper Team with the Excellence Every Day Award. The team’s work to examine equipment failure in the Tritium Extraction Facility (TEF) and determine a path forward allowed SRTE to continue carrying out its mission in support of the nation’s nuclear deterrent.

Two of three Glovebox Stripper System blower motors failed for unknown reasons within a few weeks of installation in March. A blower continuously circulates gas inside a glovebox through a stripper system to maintain low tritium activity levels in the glovebox atmosphere. In the event of a tritium release within a glovebox, a dedicated blower circulates the release through a high activity stripper train that rapidly cleans up the radioactive gas from the glovebox atmosphere.

“The facility completed Open Glovebox Maintenance (OGM) in March, during which they rebuilt three Glovebox Stripper System blowers,” said Kirsten Aylward, SRNS SRTE Deputy Chief Engineer and Glovebox Stripper Team Lead. “When two of the three blowers failed, we had a significant issue on our hands because without those blowers, the facility would be very limited in its gas operations, and most especially, extractions.”

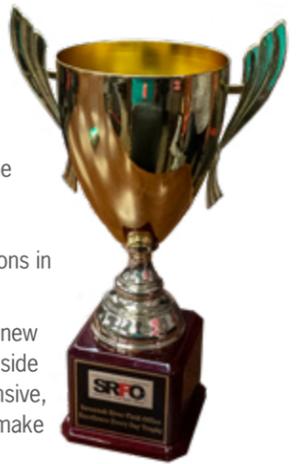
A team was formed to examine the situation with the goal of determining an outcome that would result in significantly longer blower life after the next rebuild of the Glovebox Stripper System blowers in January 2022. Their examination determined that tritium

extractions could safely continue with one working blower. NNSA agreed, allowing SRTE to deliver on its commitments and complete a record seven tritium extractions in one fiscal year.

“Long term, we are working to pursue a new design that is optimized for conditions inside our gloveboxes and will not require extensive, expensive and time consuming OGM to make repairs,” said Aylward.

NNSA SRFO Manager Jason Armstrong said, “It was important to recognize this team with the Excellence Every Day Award because they worked with a common purpose and a common sense of urgency to confront this complex issue. Through their determination and professionalism, they created solutions that positioned SRS to continue fulfilling its tritium mission today and into the future. Thank you for your commitment to excellence.”

SRNS Senior Vice President – NNSA Operations and Programs Mark Davis said, “We faced an extraordinary situation earlier this year that could have negatively impacted the number of tritium extractions we committed to completing this year. The work this team did allowed us to not only meet our commitments, but we also exceeded them. I thank the team for all the work they’ve done and continue to do to make SRTE the backbone of deterrence in support of peace.”



International Business Award given to Jeff Krohn



Jeff Krohn

Jeff Krohn, SRNS Information Technology (IT) Chief Information Officer, has been recognized as a Government Hero of the Year in the COVID-19 Response category and will take home a Bronze Stevie® Award for this accomplishment during the 18th annual International Business Awards celebration in December.

The Stevie Awards recognize outstanding performances in the workplace worldwide. More than 3,700 nominations from organizations of all sizes and in virtually every industry were submitted this year for consideration in a wide range of categories. From June through early August, more than 260 executives worldwide participated in a judging process to determine award winners.

“When COVID-19 began to impact SRS, Jeff led IT teams through unprecedented challenges, to manage explosive growth in teleworking,” said Tonya Tran, SRNS Principal Systems Engineer, who submitted the nomination. “Given the stringent security regulations imposed upon the applications, infrastructure and employees here at SRS, this was a monumental task that was managed professionally and successfully. He strongly advocated for teleworking, to maximize protection for employees while minimizing the impact on SRS missions.”

Krohn re-prioritized and rallied for funds, equipment and other resources required to adequately transition the workforce. He also negotiated licensing terms, lease agreements and other critical services.

Krohn tracked management and user concerns and prioritized them in comprehensive teleworking reports that documented issues and resolutions. During these efforts, he enforced strict security and kept SRS compliant with cybersecurity protocols. His steadfast leadership and perseverance resulted in a successful digital transformation of the SRS infrastructure and workforce. Krohn’s determination, support and guidance were integral to the success of this critical endeavor.

NNSA Administrator and Deputy tour

When NNSA Administrator Jill Hruby and Principal Deputy Administrator Frank Rose visited SRS in November, they saw a site that lives up to one of the Administrator's imperatives: Deliver. "I don't have to tell you about delivering," Hruby told a livestreamed all-hands meeting with SRNS and NNSA employees. "You understand, and we appreciate all you've done." She made clear that she – and the nation – are relying on the Site to continue that tradition, as SRS moves forward with building the new plutonium pit mission and continues fulfilling its other important NNSA missions.

Wherever in the NNSA complex Administrator Hruby travels, she carries the message about the three priorities – innovate, collaborate, and deliver. "If I could have a fourth word, I would choose 'accelerate,'" she added. "Not only do we have to deliver, we have to deliver well and relatively quickly."

She expressed great pride in the way SRS personnel have embodied those priorities in carrying out NNSA missions. This included praise for the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise's record-breaking year, the accomplishments in surplus plutonium disposition, and SRS' status as the one NNSA site that has maintained normal operations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, she noted collaboration by the team preparing for the new Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF), for working so closely with Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore national laboratories to reach production as quickly as possible.

"I can't tell you enough what a flagship program this is, and how we need to be all in together on this," she said of SRPPF. "It's a big project by any standard. It's a big deal for our nation and really important that we deliver. It's an exciting time to be part of this program."

Hruby and Rose spent their day at SRS touring the Tritium facilities and the future SRPPF, learning first-hand about current activities and future plans, and engaging in frank discussions about the importance of SRS' delivery on its missions. U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson joined her for the SRPPF tour.

In addition to the all-hands meeting, they had an informal lunch with early-career personnel from SRNS and the local NNSA offices, during which they responded to attendees' questions on a range of topics from career advice to the challenges facing NNSA.

On Twitter, Hruby shared her pleasure with the time she spent at SRS. "From having lunch with early-career high performers at SRS to sharing my vision and new priorities with the SRS workforce during an all-hands meeting – my day touring this NNSA site just kept getting better and better," she said.

Her closing message to the all-hands meeting summed up her view. "I want to let you know how important you all are to the country," she said. "It takes everybody working together and doing their job with commitment and energy and innovation to make what we do happen....I want to thank you so much for what you do every day and for agreeing to be part of this Enterprise in the future with such exciting things happening."



NNSA Administrator Jill Hruby addresses SRNS and local NNSA employees during a live-streamed all-hands meeting.



NNSA Principal Deputy Administrator Frank Rose and DOE Under Secretary for Nuclear Security & Administrator of NNSA Jill Hruby prepare to tour the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility.



Jamie Willing (left) of SRNS Safety and Health gives a safety briefing to Hruby, Rose and party in preparation for touring SRPPF.



Hruby (right) and Rose (left, back to camera) talk informally with early-career personnel from SRNS and the local NNSA offices, including Harlee Moss of SRPPF Engineering and Ami Burke of Savannah River Tritium Enterprise.

Soldiers salute managers for their support



(Front row) SRNS Vulnerability Assessment Manager Chris Amos and Team Leads Don Perry and Jeff Pedersen received Department of Defense Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Program (ESGR) Patriot Awards. (Back row) Director, Safeguards, Security and Emergency Services Lee Schifer, Stuart MacVean, Staff Sergeant Jacob Sparks, First Sergeant Todd Sturgell, First Lieutenant Nate Giancola, SRNS Senior Vice President of Environment, Safety, Health and Quality Rick Sprague.

Three SRNS leaders were each bestowed a Patriot Award from the Department of Defense (DOD) Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program on Nov. 10, for their active leadership and support of the citizen warriors within their organization.

SRNS Vulnerability Assessment Manager Chris Amos, and Team Leads Jeff Petersen and Don Perry were nominated by SRNS employees First Lieutenant Nate Giancola, First Sergeant Todd Sturgell and Staff Sergeant Jacob Sparks, who currently serve in the Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina Army National Guards, respectively.

The Patriot Award is an official DOD recognition submitted through the ESGR organization, which recognizes individual supervisors and direct managers for their outstanding support to lead and manage these soldiers, increasing the readiness of America's National Guard and Reserve forces.

Since 2001, the National Guard and Reserve have remained an integral part of the nation's combat force, having a set deployment rotation that is similar to their active-duty counterparts.

According to Giancola, "Our service to the country can, and often does, require lengthy deployments and specialized training, which can impact civilian employers. It is the civilian employers, and more importantly the direct individual leaders, who are the difference makers that allow Guard and Reserve soldiers the ability to serve our

country with peace-of-mind that our civilian jobs will continue and be waiting for us when we return."

In their roles as SRNS Manager and Team Leads of the Vulnerability Assessment organization, Amos, Pederson and Perry have consistently demonstrated support and adaptability to balance the workloads when the nation calls on their soldier-employees.

"All three have demonstrated their abilities to sustain organizational success at SRNS while fostering an environment that facilitates military readiness," said Sturgill. "Leaders like Amos, Pedersen and Perry are proof that our country's military strength extends far beyond boots and BDUs (Battle Dress Uniforms). It is our honor to recognize them for demonstrating service to the nation through exemplary leadership in the workplace."

According to Stuart MacVean, in addition to veterans, the company also welcomes civilian soldiers. "SRNS has deep admiration and gratitude for all who serve in the armed forces, whether in the past, present or the future. We are proud to play an active role in making the world safer, which starts with employees who embody a sense of service to our nation, as has been demonstrated by our soldier employees and encouraged by supportive leadership such as Chris, Jeff and Don."

The ESGR program develops and promotes supportive work environments for Service members in the Reserve Components through outreach, recognition and educational opportunities.



Celebrating veterans

SRNS currently employs 579 declared veterans who make up 11% of the nearly 5,500-person workforce. The company honored its veterans with a special Veterans Day video.

To watch, go to the Savannah River Site YouTube channel and search for "Veterans Day 2021."

College Night success

Another important milestone was recently reached, with the success of this year's virtual CSRA College Night. This annual event normally fills the James Brown Arena, in Augusta, Georgia, but this year, SRNS used a website application, providing area students with access to more than 100 college recruiters.

"Since 1993, more than 100,000 high school students and parents from the greater Aiken-Augusta area have attended CSRA College Night," said Gladys Moore, SRNS Education Outreach and CSRA College Night Chairperson. "The pandemic has caused us to be innovative in our use of available resources to reach the same college reps and students as in the past. Moving from a huge face-to-face event to a totally online event was quite a challenge; however, it all worked out wonderfully."

Over the years, more than \$300,000 in scholarships have been offered to past student attendees of CSRA College Night. "The generosity of our scholarship sponsors and much appreciated help from volunteers are major reasons why this event is so popular," said Moore.

This year's event featured recruiters from nearly 80 colleges and universities, reaching over 600 students. Throughout the evening, scholarships – each worth \$1,000 – were awarded to 15 students.

"The CSRA community provides a tremendous amount of support, both financially and with in-kind donations of service," said Francine Burroughs, who manages SRNS Workforce Services Operations and Education Outreach Program. "The community partnerships that have been forged through participation in this event allow our College Night committee to provide more resources for the students and parents each year."

"It's rewarding to see so many students having the opportunity to meet with college representatives of their choice, knowing this night could have a significant impact on their post high school education," said Moore.

Moore acknowledged the contributions made by the members of the CSRA College Night Committee. "They understand the impact this event has financially for a significant percentage of our attending students. College Night can help reduce the number of planned college visits for students, potentially saving them thousands in travel costs," she said.



South Aiken High School and Aiken Scholars Program student Jay Saxon discusses the merits of attending Andrew College with Admissions Officer Alexis Young as his mother, Mindy Noe, listens in during this year's virtual CSRA College Night.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

- Andrew Towner, North Augusta High School
- Curtis Thompson, Williston-Elko High School
- Da'Naya Johnson, Allendale-Fairfax High School
- Destiny Reeves, A.R. Johnson High School
- Donte' Smith, Academy of Richmond County
- Erica Brown, Aiken High School
- Jaden Lyons (Dee Dee), Evans High School
- Jake Simpson, South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture
- Khamaya Brown, Lake Marion High School
- Kristofer Frazier, Storm Thurmond High School
- Laquez Glover, Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School
- Lyanna Brown, Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School
- Sarah Wunder, home school
- Shamya Shipman, Allendale-Fairfax High School
- Thorne Ragin, Grovetown High School

\$20K donation helps fund Barnwell aquatics center



Chantsie Pickelsimer, Barnwell County Family YMCA Director; Larry Hutto, Barnwell County Recreation Board Chair; Natalia Johnson, SRNS Principal Scientist and Barnwell County Family YMCA Board Member; Stuart MacVean

A million-dollar, multi-feature aquatics center for the Barnwell County Family YMCA is now closer to reaching its fundraising goal, thanks to a recent \$20,000 contribution from SRNS.

The aquatics center will offer a wide range of features to include a six-lane lap pool for recreational swimming and future competitive events, a water slide and other exciting features. The center will also provide an estimated 30 summer jobs and leadership development for local youth.

"We are so grateful to our friends at Savannah River Nuclear Solutions for their heartfelt contribution to this important cause," said Pamela Rush, Executive Director at Axis I Center of Barnwell. "We believe the impact of this new facility will be extensive, having a positive economic effect throughout the area in addition to the recreational and much appreciated health-related benefits for local and nearby residents to enjoy."

Rush also explained that this state-of-the-art facility will save lives as well. Drowning is one of the leading causes of death in children throughout the United States.

Brilliant IDEAS

The SRNS Individuals Developing Effective Alternative Solutions (IDEAS) Program held its annual Risk Reduction/Productivity Contest through May and June of 2021. This contest recognizes SRNS employees for their suggestions regarding productivity, safety, security and green improvements.

Each suggestion was graded on a specific criterion to meet contest rules. Three winners were selected by a judging committee composed of the SRNS FIT Continuous Improvement Team and the Interface Management Office. The top three winners each received cash prizes with first place receiving \$1,000, second place receiving \$750 and third place receiving \$500.

SRNS Principal Continuous Improvement Specialist Blake Leaphart leads the SRNS IDEAS program. "SRNS employees are full of innovative solutions and ideas that benefit our vital missions and day-to-day tasks that take place on-site," said Leaphart. "We receive an average of 40 ideas each month. To encourage others to submit their input, we host the annual Risk Reduction/Productivity Contest to help SRNS continue to improve and streamline processes.

"We are so pleased with the innovations and ideas our workforce submitted for this contest. We are so thankful for all the individuals who submitted their ideas, and we are looking forward to the next Risk Reduction/Productivity Contest."

THE FIRST-PLACE ENTRY, submitted by Savannah River Tritium Enterprise's Rebecca Suits, was a tritium containment vessel life extension project. Once implemented, this initiative would result in a cost savings of over \$2.8 million.

THE SECOND-PLACE ENTRY, submitted by SRNS' Angela Pizzino and Steve Jahn, found a new way of recycling depinned compressed gas cylinders. The current process requires them to be cut in half before being recycled through the current scrap metal vendor. Pizzino and Jahn offered a solution that identified numerous vendors who accept these cylinders without being cut in half that could be contracted for quicker recycling to streamline the current process.

THE THIRD-PLACE ENTRY, submitted by SRNS Site Training's Joanna McKinney, proposed a solution that would allow employees to self-schedule an appointment for a mask fitting. This idea would benefit the productivity of trainers doing the mask fitting by having confirmed appointments each day; it would keep people from congregating outside the mask fitting room waiting on service; and would allow an opportunity for additional reminders for individuals coming in for mask fitting of what they should and should not do before their appointments.



University of South Carolina Aiken Nursing Program student Daija Gary receives training from SRNS Registered Nurse Misty McCully.

Student nurses gain experience in Occupational Health

Nursing degree students are participating in a job shadowing program within SRNS Medical Department at SRS, to sharpen their skills and gain experience working with nurses and physicians practicing health care in an industrial setting.

"Clinical rotations are an important means for our students to develop a basic understanding of what is required within the different types of nursing disciplines found in the greater Aiken-Augusta area," said Robyn Havens, Professor, Registered Nurse (R.N.), Ph.D., University of South Carolina Aiken (UofSC Aiken) Nursing Program. "It's the student's opportunity to shadow a nurse and learn through observation. In time, they will perform fundamental nursing procedures as well under the supervision of an experienced health care practitioner."

"The students get firsthand experience at taking care of employees. And that's what Occupational Health is all about," added Havens.

Ideally, students studying nursing will be exposed to a wide variety of clinical rotations to include: Community Health (Occupational Health care falls within this field), Critical Care, Emergency, Geriatrics, Labor and Delivery, Medical-Surgical, Pediatrics, Perioperative and Psychiatric health care.

Over the years, Misty McCully, an R.N. at SRNS, has mentored students as they worked through their clinicals, originally in a hospital emergency department and now within SRNS' medical team. "They are eager to learn, helpful and hard workers. We take this responsibility seriously and do our best to ensure their experience here has been of significant value. And who knows, one day we may be co-workers."

According to Havens, putting classroom theory into practice - in a variety of nursing environments - helps each student grow and excel in their ability to choose a field in nursing they will find rewarding. At SRS, the students assist with multiple tasks, such as vision exams, hearing tests and blood pressure checks.

Daija Gary, a senior in the nursing program at UofSC Aiken, stated that this clinical at SRS was her first opportunity to work outside of a hospital, having already experienced emergency medicine and pediatric care at Doctors Hospital. "I love working with children, but having now experienced life at an occupational nursing facility, I could see myself potentially working in this area, in time, after having gained some general experience elsewhere."

Havens explained that during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic last summer, many of the medical institutions throughout the region refused to accept UofSC Aiken nursing students for clinical rotations. "Only the hospitals and SRS would allow them to visit their facilities. And for that, I'm deeply grateful," she said.



Shawna Lloyd

AT SRNS: Independent Evaluation Board Team Member

IN THE COMMUNITY: Board member of Aiken County Habitat for Humanity; Arts and Heritage Center of North Augusta; and the Jessye Norman School of the Arts

THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

Shawna Lloyd has enjoyed rewarding assignments in Tritium and Site Services over her five-year career at SRS, but it's the SRNS commitment to give back to the community that makes her especially proud to be part of this company.

"Several years ago, I found myself a divorced, single mother of four children who had lost her job, and it was United Way agencies who helped keep me on my feet, directing me to health insurance options and resources for my young children," explained Lloyd. "I made a promise that I would never turn my back on helping others who might be in similar circumstances. And it's wonderful that SRNS leadership supports that same commitment."

In the community, she serves on the boards of directors for: Aiken County Habitat for Humanity; Arts and Heritage Center of North Augusta (AHCNA); and the Jessye Norman School of the Arts. "I feel especially blessed to align my volunteer time with organizations that my company also generously supports," she said.

"Shawna was instrumental in getting more African-American artists connected for our exhibits and connecting Jessye Norman School staff for our summer art camp," said AHCNA Executive Director Mary Anne Bigger.

An Aiken native who earned her Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Clemson University, Lloyd is active in the SRNS United Way and HeartWalk campaigns, as well as Aspiring Mid-Career Professionals (AMP) and Local Safety Improvement Team (LSIT). In 2020, she earned the Bill Arra Award for leading the Technical Services' United Way campaign and recently received AMP's Going the Extra Mile (GEM) award, as its 2021 volunteer of the year.

SRS teams hit grand slam raising \$14K for United Way

SRS hit a home run at the annual SRS United Way Softball Tournament by raising more than \$14,000 for various local United Way agencies through concession sales and other fundraising efforts by volunteers.

This year, SRNS, Centerra, Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) and Savannah River Remediation (SRR) joined forces to raise a collective goal of \$1.4 million throughout the United Way campaign.

A total of 21 teams went head-to-head for the championship title. In the end, the SRR Avengers defeated the SRNS Environmental, Safety, Security, Health and Quality team in the championship game 15 to 6.

SRNS employee and tournament organizer Eric Schiefer has watched this event grow substantially over the years to an all-time record of 21 teams. "We have such a great time hosting this event each year.

Through this event, we are able to bring employees from all over the Site together for such an important cause through some friendly competition," said Schiefer.

The 2021 SRNS United Way Campaign Chair Rachael Simon was thankful for the strong support and hard work from all SRS employees. "We appreciate everyone for their continued support of United Way events each year," said Simon. "Our employee campaign significantly impacts United Way agencies in South Carolina and Georgia, and every contribution makes a big difference in someone's life."

"Thank you to everyone who supported the 2021 United Way Softball Tournament. We had 21 teams, with over 300 players, participating this year," continued Simon. "It is truly amazing to see family, friends and coworkers come out in support."



The SRS United Way Softball Tournament opened with the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

INNOVATION • DEFENSE

NONPROLIFERATION • ENVIRONMENT

SRNS



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

We make the world **safer.**